To: MassDOT Board of Directors
From: Astrid Glynn, Rail and Transit Administrator
Re: Update
Date: December 13,2019

Rail

Valley Flyer Pilot: Ridership on the Valley Flyer pilot service between Springfield and Greenfield during its first two months of service has been encouraging. Approximately 75% of the target ridership was achieved, notwithstanding a three-day service outage and the fact that the locally directed marketing campaign is just starting. MassDOT is working closely with Amtrak to monitor schedule adherence.

Berkshire Line: Substantial capital work continues to be carried out on the Berkshire Line. Long planned projects such as tie replacements are being augmented by the need to address conditions that are deteriorating more quickly than anticipated. The Berkshire Line was acquired by MassDOT in January 2015. It is used exclusively for freight and is maintained by the line's prior owner.

Transit

Elderly and Disabled Transportation: MassDOT awarded $9.5 million in grants under its Community Transit Grant Program. This program uses state and Federal funds to improve mobility for seniors and disabled persons. These awards will help fund the acquisition of 126 lift equipped vans and other small vehicles to be used by Councils on Aging, non-profits, and Regional Transit Authorities (RTAs) that provide services to the target populations. Nineteen organizations will also receive a grant to support local services for seniors and disabled. A list of the awards is attached.

RTAs: MassDOT continues to work closely with the RTAs on issues that were developed through the RTA Task Force including the following:

> The RTA Council met on December 10. It was chaired by Secretary Pollack and attended by twelve of the fifteen Regional Transit Authorities. The principal agenda item was the MBTA's plan for Fare Transformation. Several of the RTAs use the MBTA's fare collection system and are interested in the timing of the transition, as well as continued support for the existing system.
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> MassDOT expects to award $3.5 million in Discretionary Grants to the Regional Transit Authorities before the end of December. These funds were made

available in the FY20 budget and are being awarded under a competitive process. Applications were received from thirteen of the fifteen RTAs and collectively sought $9,563,265.

MassDOT is completing the Program Preview process with the RTAs. This is an annual review of each RTA's condition, plans and projects, including its audit, budget projections, ridership trends, and other performance reports. As part of this process several members of the MassDOT transit staff meet with the Administrator of each RTA and his/her key staff.

Funding Awarded to Support Purchase of Lift Equipped Vehicles

Organization	# of Vehicles Awarded
Andover Council on Aging	1
Ashburnham Council on Aging	1
Berkshire Regional Transit Authority	6
Boys & Girls Clubs of Dorchester	1
Braintree Council on Aging	1
Brockton Area Transit Authority	6
Burlington Council on Aging	1
Cape Ann Transportation Authority	2
Cape Cod Regional Transit Authority	14
Cardinal Cushing Centers	4
City of Boston	3
City of Peabody	6
Family Service Association	1
Franklin Regional Transit Authority	3
GAAMHA, Inc.	2
Greater Attleboro-Taunton Regional Transit Authority	14
M.O. L.I.F.E., Inc	1
MetroWest Regional Transit Authority	2

MHA Inc.	1
Montachusett Regional Transit Authority	7
Oxford Council on Aging	1
Plympton Council on Aging	1
Project Independence Services, Inc.	1
South Shore Community Action Council, Inc.	7
Southeastern Regional Transit Authority	13
SurriMassini, Inc.	7
Town of Blackstone	1
Town of Marion	1
Town of Salisbury	1
Town of Somerset	1
Town of Ware	1
Town of Weymouth	1
Upham’s Corner Health Committee, Inc.	2
Worcester Regional Transit Authority	11
TOTAL	**126**

Mobility Grants to Improve Service for Elderly and Disabled Persons

Organization	Project Description	Award
Bay State Community Services	CHNA 20 will convene a Regional Coordinating Council (BHRCC) to enhance mobility in the Blue Hills region. Our project will seek to investigate and address gaps in existing systems of transportation available to older adults and persons with severe behavioral health disabilities in the greater Quincy area.	$32,000
Berkshire Regional Transit Authority	Funding for salaries and materials to support BRTA's travel training program.	$7,600
Berkshire Regional Transit Authority	Funding for electronic Paratransit Fare System.	$65,910
Brockton Area Transit Authority	Operating Assistance to continue to provide Avon-Stoughton Service.	$26,000
Brockton Area Transit Authority	Operating Assistance to continue to provide Flex service to the town of Rockland.	$50,000
Burlington Council on Aging	Funding for subsidy/voucher program for seniors and people with disabilities to book rideshare vehicles after fixed route service ends in Burlington.	$50,000
Cape Ann Transportation Authority	Funding for van transportation to dialysis and medical appointments in Beverly, Danvers, and Peabody as well as a direct transfer to the MBTA RIDE.	$46,871
City of Newton	Funding to support Newmo, Newton's new state-of-the-art transportation system that will provide more than 25,000 on-demand, dynamically routed shared trips each year for 700+ seniors.	$100,000
Greater Attleboro-Taunton Regional Transit Authority	GATRA is partnering with a local social consortium, consisting of seven non-profit agencies, to provide Uber trips in the City of Attleboro and the Town of Norton for senior citizens, persons living with disabilities, and low income individuals during the later evening hours as well as Sundays when local public transportation service is unavailable.	$25,000
Greater Attleboro-Taunton Regional Transit Authority	Med Wheels offers long-distance demand-response transportation to medical appointments for people living with disabilities and/or aged 60 or older.	$50,000

Greater Attleboro-Taunton Regional Transit Authority	GATRA is proposing the development of a coordinated system that will allow direct trip booking from the Ride Match website or a mobile device. This new feature will provide the customer the option to select from various paratransit and other ride share or community-based services as well as private options, such as taxis and livery services, and then book the trip online. The pilot program is for GATRA paratransit customers only and will allow these riders to directly book a trip without contacting the provider. GATRA would work directly with the individual service providers to develop new APIs (application program interfaces) that would interface with various scheduling software.	$64,000
Greater Attleboro-Taunton Regional Transit Authority	Continued funding for Wareham-New Bedford Shuttle.	$95,500
Hilltown Community Development Corporation	Continuation of funding for the Hilltown Driver Pool, which supplements the use of the FRTA 12-passenger Demand Response van for medical rides as needed. The program combines several COA volunteer driver programs and provides a central dispatch, driver vetting and training, and administrative support. Drivers use their personal vehicles and are reimbursed for expenses. The service is designed to address existing gaps in service and create cost savings with use of smaller vehicles.	$25,131
MetroWest Regional Transit Authority	Funding to develop a mobile application targeted primarily at our demand response service for elderly and disabled customers to provide them real-time information about trips booked. The app would allow customers to manage and create new bookings, provide vehicle specific tracking information regarding their trips, and provide way finding technology and information to assist in locating and using fixed route services near them.	$80,000
MetroWest Regional Transit Authority	Funding to staff the Travel Training Initiative (TTI). The goal of the TTI Staff is to improve travel independence within the MetroWest Region.	$80,000
Montachusett Regional Planning Commission	Planning funds to study the feasibility of – and develop an implementation plan for – a volunteer driver program serving seniors and disabled residents in Winchendon and surrounding communities	$24,000

Montachusett Regional Planning Commission	Funding to convene a steering committee that will evaluate other community ride connector programs, and design a similar program serving the Greater Gardner community. The one-year project will end with an implementation-ready pilot aiming to increase service hours, destinations, and overall ridership in a fiscally responsible way.	$48,000
Mystic Valley Elder Services, Inc.	The Connect a Ride Alliance Program provides transportation services to eleven communities north of Boston. MVES employs two full time transportation coordinators who are responsible for administering a transportation network and rider program for elders and individuals living with disabilities. This includes managing referrals, and booking rides, maintaining a transportation vendor inventory, and a cost-effective human services transportation system.	$155,600
Northern Essex Elder Transportation	Volunteer driver reimbursement program for transportation of elderly individuals.	$12,500
Old Colony Planning Council	The OCPC provides mileage reimbursement to volunteer drivers at the federally approved mileage rate.	$30,000
Pioneer Valley Transit Authority	Funding for PVTA travel training program staff salaries, professional development, and outreach materials.	$82,724
Pioneer Valley Transit Authority	Operating funds to support the transition of paratransit service provision from PVTA to COAs in order to reduce cost of service and relieve strain on PVTA's operating budget.	$129,203
Pioneer Valley Transit Authority	Funding for partnership between PVTA and the Quaboag Connector to enhance service to the towns of Palmer and Ware improving access to jobs and medical care by utilizing a MicroTransit system that supplements existing limited transportation options in the area. PVTA will use the Ecolane system to pilot a MicroTransit platform. This would include scheduling software, mobile application, and online trip management. The platform will allow for on-demand same day service in a pre-determined zone and automated scheduling for demand response service.	$193,304
South Shore Community Action Council, Inc.	Operating assistance for SSCAC transportation program for seniors and persons with disabilities.	$50,000
Springfield Partners for Community	Operating funds to support the transportation of elderly disabled veterans across the Springfield metro area.	$75,000

Town of Acton	Expansion of Crosstown Connect shared dispatch services to include a "concierge" element, which will close the gap in access to ride-hailing and micro-transit based on variation in riders' cell phone experience.	$80,000
Town of Ware	Operation of rural nine town regional transportation service called the Quaboag Connector.	$121,000
Worcester Regional Transit Authority	Demand response service offered to people with disabilities and people age 60+ traveling from Holden to Worcester and return. This service operates in the early morning before the Holden COA paratransit service is on the road and in the afternoon after they are off the road.	$12,000
Worcester Regional Transit Authority	SCM Elderbus service for people living in one of the 22 communities and provides trips to Worcester, focusing on medical trips. Without this service, riders would have to go to Worcester in the morning and stay in Worcester many hours before being brought back home in the afternoon.	$15,000
Worcester Regional Transit Authority	ReadyBus provides a much needed transportation service focusing on people with disabilities and people age 60 and over who live and work in the towns of Southbridge, Spencer, Sturbridge and Webster.	$45,000